

YPLN Umpires Association Newsletter

Issue 1, July 2024

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Launch of umpires association

Welcome to the first newsletter of the YPLN Umpires Association

The reason for launching the association is to improve communication between the league and umpires, and to improve communication between umpires. It's also to help umpires develop and improve their skills, and provide information about MCC Laws, League Rules, and the latest ECB guidance.



Marizanne Kapp penalty runs

In the first game of the women's Hundred this year 5 penalty runs were awarded against Marizanne Kapp for dangerous play. Her offence was to throw the ball back towards the stumps when there was clearly the danger that it would hit the batter, breaching Law 42.

In 2023, following a serious injury, the ECB made it clear that they wanted this section of Law 42 to be enforced strictly at all levels of cricket for situations where the bowler attempts to throw down the stumps. Law 42.3.1 specifies a Level 2 sanction for "throwing the ball at a player, umpire, or another person in an inappropriate and dangerous manner."

Colin du Grandhomme was given the same penalty for an almost identical offence to Kapp's in a county match in 2023.

We rarely see this behaviour in our league, but it does happen. As such, it's worth us all being aware of the penalty that should be given. In particular, the ECB have been clear that if it happens, the response can't be to say "don't do it again" - it needs to be an automatic, on-field Level 2 offence, with 5 penalty runs awarded, after both umpires have conferred, and informed the fielding captain. If you know of teams where it can be a problem you may want to make the rule clear at the toss.

(To be clear, bowlers are not banned from throwing the ball at the stumps if doing so doesn't risk hitting the batter. In addition, the ball does still count in the over.)

Feedback please

This is a new project, and we need to know what we can do to help you.

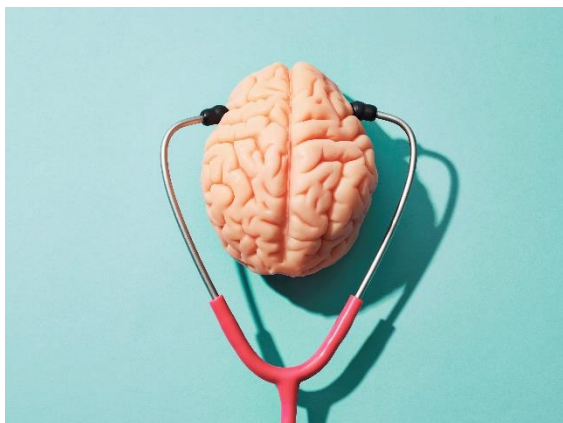
For example:

What topics should we cover in future editions of this newsletter?

What are the main problems you have to deal with as umpires?

What can the association do to support you?

Please email all ideas and questions to Matt Harris at matt1857@gmail.com



ECB concussion guidance

As many of you will already be aware, the ECB sent out reminders earlier this season that they expect their concussion guidance to be strictly enforced. While the concussion guidance itself was issued in 2021, subsequent changes to the MCC Dead Ball law (20.4.2) in 2023 have led to some important changes in how cricket is umpired.

Specifically, the 2021 concussion guidance says the following:

“where a blow to the head occurs, however mild, the umpires shall .. immediately call and signal dead ball”

and the new 2023 wording of Law 20.4.2 says

“the ball will be considered to be dead at the instant of the incident causing the ball to become dead”

What this means is best expressed in a few examples:

- 1) If the ball hits a batter’s head (or helmet) then no runs can be scored off that ball.
- 2) If the ball hits a batter’s head (or helmet) and is subsequently caught by a fielder, the batter is not out.
- 3) If the ball hits a fielder’s head (or helmet) then no runs can be scored, unless the batsmen have already crossed at the point of the head contact (possible but unlikely), in which case the run(s), up to that point only, do count
- 4) If the ball hits a fielder’s head (or helmet) and is subsequently caught, the batsman is not out.

In all the above cases, unless the batters have already crossed, make sure they return to their original ends. To be clear, the ball in question does count in the over.

I have used the “ball hits head” scenario above, but in practice this all applies to any situation where concussion is possible e.g. two players running into each other.

If you think that captains in your games may not be aware of this (and many won’t be), then mention it at the toss to avoid a flashpoint later in the game.

In addition, don’t forget to help your scorers. If you see head contact, and have to call “dead ball”, make sure you explain to the scorers exactly what has happened, and why.

Get in touch if you have any questions on this (matt1857@gmail.com)